

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-3, 5-12, and 14-17 are currently being prosecuted. Claims 4 and 13 are canceled, and claims 1 and 9 are amended. Claims 1 and 9 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider her rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 4, 7, 8, 13, 16, and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application. As set forth below, the limitations of objected-to claims 4 and 13 are incorporated into independent claims 1 and 9, respectively; therefore, independent claims 1 and 9 should be in condition for allowance. Claims 4 and 13 are canceled.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. No additional action is required at this time.

Drawings

Included with the accompanying Letter to the Official Draftsperson are proposed changes to FIGS. 5(a) and 5(b) to identify each as a "Comparative Example". In anticipation

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of approval, revised drawings are also attached. It is requested that the Examiner provide a Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, Form PTO-948, with the next official communication.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has acknowledged receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 31, 2001, and has returned an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449. No further action is necessary at this time.

Objection to Abstract

In response to the objection to the Abstract, a substitute Abstract is attached in order to place it in better form.

Claim Objection

Claim 1 is objected to because of informalities. In order to overcome this objection, claim 1 is amended as suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are, therefore, respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9-12, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ichikawa et al. (U.S. 5,620,217). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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As noted above, by this Amendment, the limitations of objected-to claims 4 and 13 are incorporated into independent claims 1 and 9, respectively; therefore, independent claims 1 and 9 should be in condition for allowance. Claims 4 and 13 are canceled. Since claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 11, and 14-17 depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 or 9, they should also be allowable, as well.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for

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any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By Paul C. Slattery ✓
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For Reg. No. 28,380

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MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the **Abstract of the Disclosure** as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[To provide a] A shock absorbing structure of a two-wheeled vehicle[, which is] capable of sufficiently absorbing shock and desirably maintain the steerability of the two-wheeled vehicle. [A shock absorbing] The structure includes a shock absorbing member projecting from a front wheel, wherein the shock absorbing member is crashed when the vehicle collides with an obstacle so as to absorb shock. [In the shock absorbing structure, a front end of the shock absorbing member is located in front of a front wheel or in the vicinity of the front wheel.] A ceiling wall of the shock absorbing member is located at such a position that the ceiling wall does not block a forward viewing area for a driver. A center of a leading end contact surface of the shock absorbing member is located at a position higher than a vertical position of a center of gravity G of both a motorcycle and the driver[. Right], and right and left side surfaces [and] of the shock absorbing member are offset to a center of a vehicular body from right and left side surfaces of the motorcycle.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **cancel claims 4 and 13** without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please **amend claims 1 and 9** as follows:

1. (Amended) A shock absorbing structure for a two-wheeled vehicle including a shock absorbing member projecting from a vehicular body, wherein shock is absorbed by crashing said shock absorbing member, comprising:

a front end of said shock absorbing member [is] located in front of a front wheel or in the vicinity of said front wheel;

an upper end of said shock absorbing member [is] located at such a position that the upper end of said shock absorbing member does not block a forward viewing area for a driver;

a top wall having a forward section with an inclined upper surface for permitting an operator to have a forward viewing area that is not obstructed;

a center of a leading end contact surface of said shock absorbing member [is] located at a position higher than a vertical position of a center of gravity of both said vehicle and said driver; and

right and left side surfaces of said shock absorbing member [are] offset to a center of a vehicular body from right and left side surfaces of said vehicular body,

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wherein said upper end includes a forward section with an inclined upper surface for permitting said forward viewing area of said operator to be unobstructed.

9. (Amended) A shock absorbing structure for a vehicle including a shock absorbing member projecting from a vehicular body, comprising:

a front end of said shock absorbing member [being] located forward of a front wheel;

an upper end of said shock absorbing member [being] positioned [wherein the upper end does] so as not to block a forward viewing area [for] of an operator of the vehicle; and

a center of a leading end contact surface of said shock absorbing member [being] located at a vertical position higher than a position of a center of gravity of both said vehicle and said operator,

wherein said upper end includes a forward section with an inclined upper surface so that said forward viewing area is not obstructed.

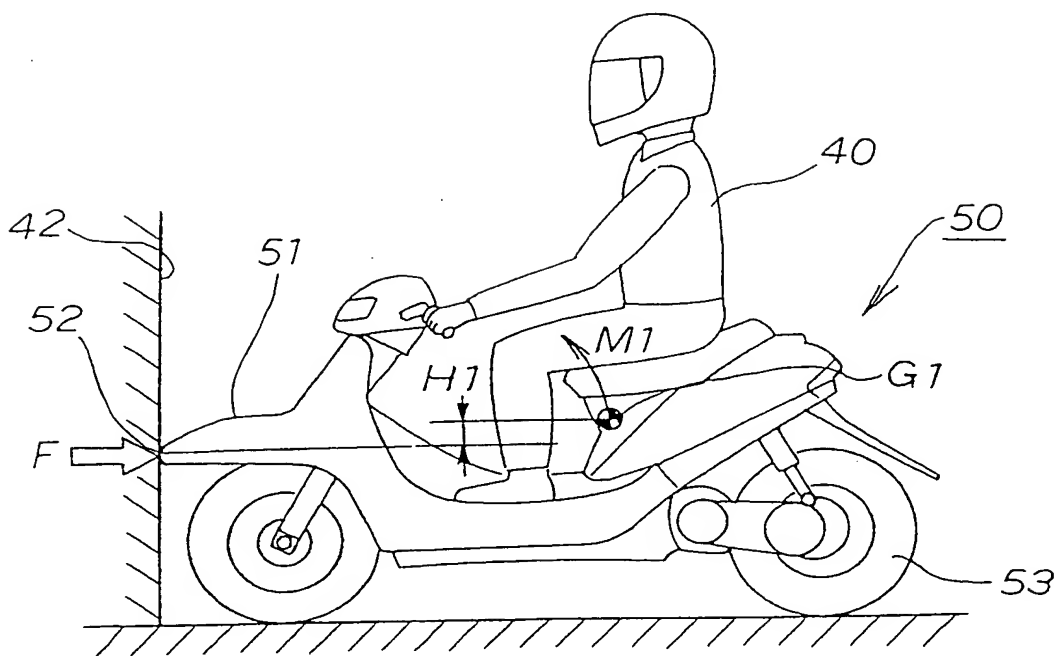


FIG. 5(a)
COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE

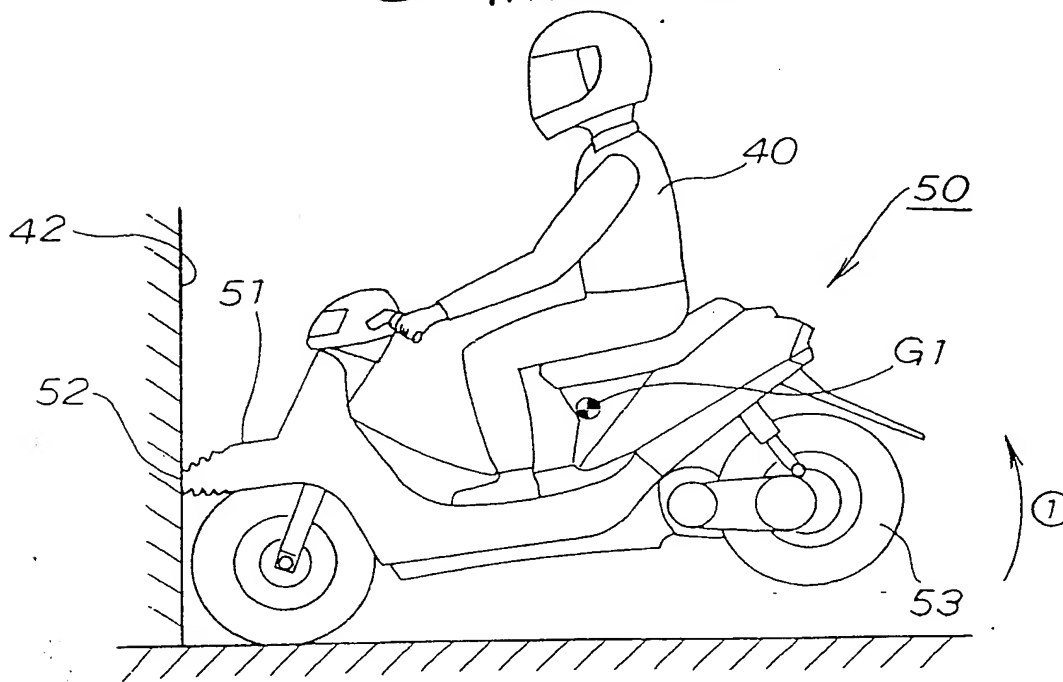


FIG. 5(b)
COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE